(c) 4793 metric tonnes of Indian unmanufactured tobacco valued Rs. 25.23 crore was exported to the United States of America (USA) in 2006-07.

(d) The Tariff Rate Quota (TRQ) regime on tobacco imports in USA is restricting market access for Indian tobacco.

(e) The Government has brought up this issue in bilateral discussions on trade with the US Government, Trade Policy Review of USA and other forums for a favourable resolution.

Establishment of Super-SEZs

2324. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have finalized plans for Super-SEZs which involve a specially delineated area of 250 square kilometres;

(b) what are the gains from Super-SEZs, covering 2.5 lakh acres;

(c) whether it is a fact that Government will have to acquire the land for private SEZ operators;

(d) whether public opinion has been sought on such Super-SEZs; and

(e) the steps proposed to review this plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) to (e) There is no proposal for any Super-SEZ scheme. However, as one of the initiatives towards providing quality infrastructure in order to encourage manufacturing growth in the country, Government has notified, policy regarding Petroleum, Chemicals and Petrochemicals Investment Regions (PCPIR). The PCPIR could include one or more SEZs, industrial parks, growth centres etc. which will attract investments and generate direct and indirect employment. As regards, land acquisition for private SEZ operators the State Governments have been advised that no such proposal would be considered for approval as SEZ where the State Government has compulsorily acquired or proposes to compulsorily acquire land after 5th April, 2007.

Establishment of industrial parks in Sikkim

2325. SHRI O.T. LEPCHA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of industrial parks set up in the States of North Eastern Region particularly in the State of Sikkim during the year 2006-07;

(b) whether Government are contemplating to establish such parks in Sikkim during the current year; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the funds allotted for the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL POLICY AND PROMOTION, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR): (a)No approval has been given under the Industrial Park Scheme to any undertaking for setting up of an Industrial Park in the States of North Eastern Region including Sikkim, so far.

(b) and (c) Under the Industrial Park Scheme, approval is provided to the developer of an Industrial Park to avail Income Tax benefit under Section 80-IA of Income Tax Act 1961. There is no provision of financial allocation under the Scheme.

Survey on impact of hike of cement price

2326. SHRI THENNALA G. BALAKRISHNA PILLAI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have conducted/propose to conduct any survey on the impact of the hike of cement price; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL POLICY AND PROMOTION, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Promoting Brands of handloom by IBEF

2327. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the sole aim of Indian Brand Equity Foundation (IBEF) which is managed by Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) is to promote the brands in handlooms, handicrafts, leather and horticulture sectors;

(b) whether it is also a fact that aims for which this foundation was established are not being achieved upto the mark; and

(c) the new guidelines issued by Government to the IBEF?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) and (b) No, Sir.

(c) Question does not arise.

Opposition to SEZs

†2328. SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the policy of promoting Special Economic Zones and allotting the agricultural land to non-agricultural sector in different parts of the country is being strongly opposed;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.